

What is Claimed:

1. An automated order management system, comprising:
a vendor management inventory (VMI) server comprising a demand management system that receives customer data indicative of inventory;
a relational database for storing said customer data; and
an aspect integrator that provides an integrated graphical user interface to the VMI server, said aspect integrator providing multiple views of said customer data in accordance with user credentials.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said customer data is input from an enterprise resource planning system on a periodic basis to said VMI server.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein said demand management system selects a forecasting method and creates a forecast, and wherein said demand management system decides if an order for additional units of a product to be supplied to a customer is necessary in accordance with said forecast.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the demand management system sends an order to an order management system, wherein said order management system parses the order and sends the parsed order to supplier factories for fulfillment.
5. The system of claim 3, wherein said relational database stores at least one of SKU, quantity issued, quantity on hand, date, and warehouse location for each customer.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein said demand management system includes an inventory control and optimization component, a demand forecasting component, a distribution planning component, and an order replenishment component.
- 7. The system of claim 6, wherein said inventory control and optimization component creates a knowledge base for future forecasts in accordance with past demand and external parameters related to a product being forecasted.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein forecasting is performed on a per customer, per product basis and wherein forecasting may be based on at least one of the following models: time series analysis with moving averages, regression analysis, and lifecycle models.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein said demand forecasting component collects customer-level input and makes forecast changes visible in a collaborative environment.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said demand forecasting component provides reporting of at least one of actual and required inventory levels, actual and required inventory usage, units or dollars, forecasted customer demand, and forecasted industry demand for plant loading.

11. The system of claim 6, wherein said distribution planning component provides multiple views for supply chain planning, wherein said multiple views comprise a statistical view for applying mathematical models, a marketing view that is product family and region focused, a sales view that is customer focused, and a manufacturing view that is used for resource management.

12. The system of claim 6, wherein said order replenishment component replenishes stock levels using forecast results, on hand inventory, WIP inventory, and in transit inventory.

13. A method of demand forecasting in a vender managed inventory environment, comprising

receiving customer inventory usage data;
forecasting products for a customer based on the usage data;
generating forecast reports;
inputting said forecast reports to a replenishment system;
determining new orders based on said usage data and said forecast reports; and
forwarding said new orders to an order entry system for fulfillment.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the forecast reports include a revised forecast, marketing reports, forecast history reports and a demand update report.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising updating inventory by calculating optimized inventory levels on a per customer, per location, and per product basis.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising replenishing customer stock levels using forecast results, on hand inventory, and unshipped orders.

17. A system for vendor managed inventory, comprising:
a demand management system that receives customer product usage data and forecasts customer demand for products in accordance with said product usage data;
an order management system that receives orders from said demand management system and parses sends the order for fulfillment;
a relational database system for storing customer information; and
an aspect integrator platform for collaboratively presenting said customer information.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said demand management system decides if an order for additional units of products to be supplied to a customer is necessary in accordance with said forecasts.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein said customer information stored in said relational comprises at least one of SKU, quantity issued, quantity on hand, date, and warehouse location.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein said demand management system includes an inventory control and optimization component, a demand forecasting component, a distribution planning component, and an order replenishment component.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein said inventory control and optimization component creates a knowledge base for future forecasts in accordance with past demand and external parameters related to a product being forecasted.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein forecasting is performed on a per customer, per product basis and wherein forecasting may be based on at least one of the following models: time series analysis with moving averages, regression analysis, and lifecycle models.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein said demand forecasting component collects customer-level input and makes forecast changes visible in a collaborative environment.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein said demand forecasting component provides reporting of at least one of actual and required inventory levels, actual and required inventory usage, units or dollars, forecasted customer demand, and forecasted industry demand for plant loading.

25. The system of claim 20, wherein said distribution planning component provides multiple views for supply chain planning, wherein said multiple views comprise a statistical view for applying mathematical models, a marketing view that is product family and region focused, a sales view that is customer focused, and a manufacturing view that is used for resource management.

26. The system of claim 20, wherein said order replenishment component replenishes stock levels using forecast results, on hand inventory, WIP inventory, and in transit inventory.